IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2, 4, 29-32, and 34-36, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 10-28, 33, and 37-57, and add new Claims 58-60 to read as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below):

Sub C1 B1

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device search system comprising a server unit and a client unit,

~~wherein said server unit comprises:~~

~~database control means for controlling a database in which information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device are registered and for executing a search for a device in accordance with a search request from said client unit, and~~

wherein said client unit comprises:

first ~~generation~~ request means for ~~generating~~ requesting said server unit to execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search for a desired device on ~~the~~ a network;

recognition means for recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by said server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated by the first generation means~~ at least one device;

second ~~generation~~ request means for ~~extracting a certain attribute from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ requesting said server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition by the recognition means that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

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~~search means for requesting said server unit to search the database for information of a device satisfying the second condition generated by the second generation means in response to a recognition by the recognition means that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition;~~ and

output means for outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when the recognition means recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and for outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable to a user to select a desired one of the found devices, when the recognition means recognizes that the search result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claim 2 (canceled)

B2 sub C17

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device search system according to claim ~~2~~

1, wherein ~~said client unit further comprises;~~

~~third control means for~~ the output means selectively ~~outputting~~ outputs the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from the second search.

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Claim 4 (canceled)

Sub C1

Claim 5 (currently amended): The device search system according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein

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said client unit further comprises storage means for storing symbol information, including a graphical icon, corresponding to an attribute ~~that can be designated by the first condition~~ used for the first search, and

when the search result ~~information under the second condition~~ from the second search is outputted and when the information showing a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device found in the first search is outputted, a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute~~ at least one device or each attribute of each device is shown in accordance with a display mode of the ~~symbol information~~ graphical icon corresponding to each attribute.

Claim 6-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): An apparatus for searching a database ~~in~~, which holds information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device ~~are registered, in accordance with a query sent to a server unit~~, said apparatus comprising:

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first ~~generation~~ request means for ~~generating~~ requesting a server unit to execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number attributes in order to search for a desired device on the network;

recognition means for recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by the server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated by said first generation means~~ at least one device;

second ~~generation~~ request means for ~~extracting a certain attribute from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ requesting the server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition by said recognition means that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

~~search means for requesting the server unit to search the database information for a device satisfying the second condition generated by said second generation means in response to said recognition means recognizing that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition~~; and

output means for outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when said recognition means recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and for outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable to a user to select a desired one of the found devices, when said recognition means recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

B4

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising database control means for controlling a search of the database, wherein

attributes of a device controlled by the database include an indispensable attribute registered whenever a device is registered in the database and attributes other than the indispensable attribute, and

said second ~~generation~~ request means extracts only the indispensable attribute from the number of attributes ~~designated by the first condition and generates the second condition~~ used for the first search in order to request the second search.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~11~~ 10, ~~further comprising third control means for~~ wherein said output means selectively ~~outputting~~ outputs the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from

the second search.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~12~~ 11, wherein said ~~third control means outputs the search result information under the first condition when a device to be outputted as the first result information is present, and outputs the search result information under the second condition when the device to be outputted as the search result information under the first condition is not present~~ output means outputs device names and information that shows attributes satisfied by the devices so that the user may select a desired one of the devices.

Claim 14 (currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising storage means for storing symbol information, including a graphical icon, corresponding to an attribute ~~that can be designated by the first condition~~ used for the first search, wherein, when the search result ~~information under the second condition~~ from the second search is outputted and when information showing a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device found in the first search is outputted, a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute~~ at least one device or each attribute of each device is shown in accordance with a display mode of the ~~symbol information~~ graphical icon corresponding to each attribute.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An apparatus for searching a database in

accordance with a query received from a client unit, said apparatus comprising:

execution means for executing a search in accordance with a search request from the client unit;

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database control means for controlling a database in which information for identifying a device on a network and information for various attributes of the device are registered, and for controlling execution of the search for the device in accordance with the search request from the client unit;

reception means for receiving from the client unit a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search for a device which satisfies a number of attributes ~~in order to search for a desired device~~ on the network;

recognition means for recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition received by said reception means~~ at least one device;

~~generation means for extracting a certain~~ obtaining means for obtaining at least one attribute ~~from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ for use in a second search from the number of attributes for the first search;

~~first~~ search means for ~~searching~~ executing the second search for a device satisfying the ~~second condition from the database~~ at least one attribute obtained by said obtaining means, in response to a recognition by said recognition means that the search result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device; and

output means for outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the

first search when said recognition means recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and for outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search when said recognition means recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein attributes of a device controlled by the database include an indispensable attribute registered whenever a device is registered in the database and attributes other then the indispensable attribute, and

said ~~generation~~ obtaining means extracts only the indispensable attribute from the number of attributes ~~designated by the first condition and generates the second condition~~ for the first search for use in the second search.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising control means for selecting the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from the second search.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said control means returns the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first

search to the client unit when a device to be outputted as the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ is present, and returns the search result ~~information under the second condition~~ from the second search to the client unit when a device to be outputted as the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ is not present.

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Claim 19 (currently amended): A method for searching a database ~~in~~, which holds information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device ~~are registered, in accordance with a query sent to a server unit~~, said method comprising:

a ~~generation~~ first request step of ~~generating~~ requesting a server unit to execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search for a desired device on the network;

a recognition step of recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by the server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated in said generation step~~ at least one device;

an ~~extraction~~ second request step of ~~extracting a certain attribute from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ requesting the server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition in said recognition step that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

~~a request step of requesting the server unit to search the database for~~

~~information of a device satisfying the second condition generated in said extraction step in response to a recognition in said recognition step that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition;~~ and

an output step of outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when said recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable to a user to select a desired one of the found devices when said recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 19, further comprising a database control step of controlling a search of the database, wherein

attributes of a device controlled by the database include an indispensable attribute registered whenever a device is registered in the database and attributes other than the indispensable attribute, and,

in said second request step, only the indispensable attribute is extracted from the number of attributes ~~designated by the first condition when the second condition is generated~~ used for the first search in order to request the second search.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~20~~ 19, ~~further~~

~~comprising an output control step of~~ wherein said output step selectively ~~outputting~~ outputs the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from the second search.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~21~~ 20, wherein ~~the search result information under the first condition is outputted when a device to be outputted as the search result information under the first condition is present, and the search result information under the second condition is outputted when the device to be outputted as the search result information under the first condition is not present~~ said output step outputs device names and information that shows attributes satisfied by the devices so that the user may select a desired one of the devices.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method according to claim 20, further comprising a ~~control~~ storage step of ~~controlling~~ storing symbol information, including a graphical icon, corresponding to an attribute ~~that can be designated by the search result information under the second condition~~ used for the first search, wherein, when the search result ~~information under the second condition~~ from the second search is outputted and when information showing a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device found in the first search is outputted, a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute~~ at least one device or each attribute of each device is shown in accordance with a

display mode of ~~symbol information~~ the graphical icon corresponding to each attribute.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for searching a database in accordance with a query received from a client unit, said method comprising:

an execution step of executing a search in accordance with a search request from the client unit;

a database control step of controlling a database in which information for identifying a device on the network and information of various attributes of the device are registered, and executing a search for a device in accordance with the search request from the client unit;

a reception step of receiving from the client unit a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search for a device which satisfies a number of attributes ~~in order to search for a desired device~~ on the network;

a recognition step of recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition received in said reception step~~ at least one device;

an ~~extraction step of extracting a certain~~ obtaining step of obtaining at least one attribute ~~from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ for use in a second search from the number of attributes for the first search;

a search step of ~~searching~~ executing the second search for a device satisfying the ~~second condition from the database~~ at least one attributed obtained in said obtaining step, in

response to a recognition in said recognition step that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device; and

an output step of outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when said recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search when said recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

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Claim 25 (currently amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein attributes of a device controlled by the database include an indispensable attribute registered whenever a device is registered in the database and attributes other than the indispensable attribute, and,

in said obtaining step, only the indispensable attribute is extracted from the number of attributes ~~designated by the first condition when the second condition is generated~~ for the first search for use in the second search.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method according to claim 25, further comprising a selection step of selecting the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from the second search and returning the selected search result

information to the client unit.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method according to claim 26, wherein

the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search is returned to the client unit when a device to be outputted as the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ is present, and

the search result ~~information under the second condition~~ from the second search is returned to the client unit when the device to be outputted as the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ is not present.

B4

Claim 28 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer to implement a method for searching a database ~~in~~, which holds information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device ~~are registered, in accordance with a query sent to a server unit~~, wherein the method comprises:

a ~~generation~~ first request step of ~~generating~~ requesting a server unit to execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search for a desired device on the network;

a recognition step of recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by the server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated in the generation step~~ at least one device;

an ~~extraction~~ second request step of ~~extracting a certain attribute from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ requesting the server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition in the recognition step that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

~~a request step of requesting server unit to search the database for information of a device satisfying the second condition generated in the extraction step in response to a recognition in the recognition step that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition;~~ and

an output step of outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable to a user to select a desired one of the found devices, when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claims 29-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer to implement a method for searching a database in accordance with

query received from a client unit, wherein the method comprises:

an execution step of executing a search in accordance with a search request from the client unit;

a database control step of controlling a database in which information for identifying a device on the network and information for various attributes of the device, and executing a search of a device in accordance with the search request from the client unit;

a reception step of receiving from the client unit a request for a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search for a device which satisfies a number of attributes ~~in order to search for a desired device~~ on the network;

a recognition step of recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition received in the reception step~~ at least one device;

an ~~extraction step of extracting a certain~~ obtaining step of obtaining at least one attribute ~~from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ for use in a second search from the number of attributes for the first search;

a search step of ~~searching~~ executing the second search for a device satisfying the ~~second condition from the database~~ at least one attributed obtained in the obtaining step, in response to a recognition in the recognition step that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device; and

an output step of outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the

presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claims 34-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and the output means displays on a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 38 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and said output means displays on a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 39 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing

attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and said output means displays on a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and said output step outputs to a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

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Claim 41 (currently amended): A method according to claim 24, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and said output step outputs to a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 28, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and the output step outputs to a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 33, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and the output step outputs to a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A computer program product embodying a computer program for implementing a method for searching a database ~~in~~, which holds information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device ~~are registered, in accordance with a query sent to a server unit~~, wherein the method comprises:

a ~~generation~~ first request step of ~~generating~~ requesting a server unit to execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search for a desired device on the network;

a recognition step of recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by the server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated in the generation step~~ at least one device;

~~an extraction~~ a second request step of ~~extracting a certain attribute from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ requesting the server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition in the recognition step

that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

~~a request step of requesting server unit to search the database for information of a device satisfying the second condition generated in the extraction step in response to a recognition in the recognition step that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition;~~ and

an output step of outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable to a user to select a desired one of the found devices, when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

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Claim 45 (currently amended): The program product according to claim 44, wherein the method further comprises a control step of controlling a search of the database, such that

attributes of a device controlled by the database include an indispensable attribute registered whenever a device is registered in the database and attributes other than the indispensable attribute, and,

in the second request step, only the indispensable attribute is extracted from the number of attributes ~~designated by the first condition when the second condition is generated~~

used for the first search in order to request the second search.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The program product according to claim ~~45~~ 44, wherein the ~~method further comprises an~~ output ~~control~~ step ~~of~~ selectively ~~outputting~~ outputs the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from the second search.

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Claim 47 (currently amended): The program product according to claim ~~46~~ 45, wherein the ~~search result information under the first condition is outputted when a device to be outputted as the search result information under the first condition is present, and the search result information under the second condition is outputted when the device to be outputted as the search result information under the first condition is not present~~ output step outputs device names and information that shows attributes satisfied by the devices so that the user may select a desired one of the devices.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The program product according to claim 45, wherein the method further comprises a ~~control~~ storage step of ~~controlling~~ storing symbol information, including a graphical icon, corresponding to an attribute ~~that can be designated by the first condition~~ from the second search, wherein, when the search result information under the second condition is outputted and when information showing a presence or an absence of ~~each~~

~~attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device found in the first search is outputted, a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute~~ is shown in accordance with a display mode of ~~symbol information~~ the graphical icon corresponding to each attribute.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A program product according to claim 44, wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and the output step outputs to a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

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Claim 50 (currently amended): A computer program product embodying a computer program for implementing a method for searching a database in accordance with query received from a client unit, wherein the method comprises:

an execution step of executing a search in accordance with a search request from the client unit;

a database control step of controlling a database in which information for identifying a device on the network and information for various attributes of the device, and executing a search of a device in accordance with the search request from the client unit;

a reception step of receiving from the client unit a request for a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search for a device which satisfies a number of attributes ~~in order to search for a desired device~~ on the network;

a recognition step of recognizing whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition received in the reception step~~ at least one device;

an ~~extraction step of extracting a certain~~ obtaining step of obtaining at least one attribute ~~from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ for use in a second search from the number of attributes for the first search;

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a search step of ~~searching~~ executing the second search for a device satisfying the ~~second condition from the database~~ at least one attribute obtained in the obtaining step, in response to a recognition in the recognition step that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device; and

an output step of outputting a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and outputting a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search when the recognition step recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The program product according to claim 50, wherein

attributes of a device controlled by the database include an indispensable attribute registered whenever a device is registered in the database and attributes other than the

indispensable attribute; and,

in the obtaining step, only the indispensable attribute is extracted from the number of attributes ~~designed by the first condition when the second condition is generated~~ for the first search for use in the second search.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The program product according to claim 51, wherein the method further comprises a selection step of selecting the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search or the search result ~~information under the second condition in accordance with a predetermined condition~~ from the second search and returning the selected search result information to the client unit.

B4

Claim 53 (currently amended): The program product according to claim 52, wherein

the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ from the first search is returned to the client unit when a device to be outputted as the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ is present, and

the search result ~~information under the second condition~~ from the second search is returned to the client unit when the device to be outputted as the search result ~~information under the first condition~~ is not present.

Claim 54 (currently amended): A program product according to claim 50,

wherein the second ~~condition is determined~~ search is executed based on at least one of a color printing attribute, a finishing attribute, and a print layout attribute, and the output step outputs to a display unit at least one printer identifier that corresponds to a printer ~~satisfying the second condition~~ found in the second search.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A device search system comprising a server unit and a client unit,

~~wherein said server unit comprises:~~

~~a database control unit adapted to control a database in which information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device are registered and to execute a search for a device in accordance with a search request from said client unit, and~~

wherein said client unit comprises:

a first ~~generation~~ request unit adapted to ~~generate~~ request said server unit to execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search a desired device on ~~the~~ a network;

a recognition unit adapted to recognize whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by said server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated by the first generation unit~~ at least one device;

a second ~~generation~~ request unit adapted to ~~extract a certain attribute~~

~~from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ request said server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition by the recognition means that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

~~a search unit adapted to request said server unit to search the database for information of a device satisfying the second condition generated by the second generation unit in response to a recognition by the recognition unit that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition;~~ and

an output unit adapted to output a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when the recognition unit recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and to output a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable to a user to select a desired one of the found devices, when the recognition unit recognizes that the search result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claim 56 (currently amended): An apparatus for searching a database ~~in~~, which holds information for identifying a device on a network and information of various attributes of the device ~~are registered, in accordance with a query sent to a server unit~~, said apparatus comprising:

a first ~~generation~~ request unit adapted to ~~generate~~ request a server unit to

execute a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search in accordance with a number of attributes in order to search for a desired device on the network;

a recognition unit adapted to recognize whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search executed by the server unit shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition generated by said first generation unit~~ at least one device;

a second ~~generation~~ request unit adapted to ~~extract a certain attribute from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ request the server unit to execute a second search in accordance with a part of the number of attributes used for the first search in order to search for a desired device on the network, in response to a recognition by said recognition unit that the result information shows the absence of at least one device;

~~a search unit adapted to request the server unit to search the database information for a device satisfying the second condition generated by said second generation unit in response to said recognition unit recognizing that the search result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition;~~ and

an output unit adapted to output a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when said recognition unit recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and to output a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search, which shows attributes of each device found in the second search, in order to enable a user to select a desired one of the found devices, when said recognition unit recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the

absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

Claim 57 (currently amended): An apparatus for searching a database in accordance with a query received from a client unit, said apparatus comprising:

an execution unit adapted to execute a search in accordance with a search request from the client unit;

a database control unit adapted to control a database in which information for identifying a device on a network and information for various attributes of the device are registered, and to control execution of the search for the device in accordance with the search request from the client unit;

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a reception unit adapted to receive from the client unit a request for a first ~~condition designating one or more~~ search for a device which satisfies a number of attributes ~~in order to search for a desired device~~ on the network;

a recognition unit adapted to recognize whether ~~obtained search~~ result information obtained from the first search shows a presence or an absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition received by said reception unit~~ at least one device;

~~a generation unit adapted to extract a certain~~ an obtaining unit adapted to obtain at least one attribute ~~from the first condition to generate a second condition~~ for use in a second search from the number of attributes for the first search;

a ~~first~~ search unit adapted to ~~search~~ execute the second search for a device satisfying the ~~second condition from the database~~ at least one attribute obtained by said obtaining

unit, in response to a recognition by said recognition unit that the ~~search~~ result information shows the absence of each attribute designated by the first condition at least one device; and

an output unit adapted to output a search result ~~under the first condition~~ from the first search when said recognition unit recognizes that the ~~search~~ result information shows the presence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device, and to output a search result ~~under the second condition~~ from the second search when said recognition unit recognizes that the search result information shows the absence of ~~each attribute designated by the first condition~~ at least one device.

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Claim 58 (new): The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said output means outputs device names and information that shows attributes satisfied by the devices, so that the user may select a desired one of the devices.

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Claim 59 (new): The method according to claim 24, wherein said output step outputs device names and information that shows attributes satisfied by the devices, so that the user may select a desired one of the devices.

Claim 60 (new): The program product according to claim 50, wherein the output step outputs device names and information that shows attributes satisfied by the devices, so that the user may select a desired one of the devices.